The translation from Russian into German will be a disappointment to those who are accustomed to the easy and natural style of such writers as Strümpell. McCarthy.

Arbeiten aus dem Institut für Anatomie und Physiologie des Centralnervensystems an der Wiener Universität. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Heinrich Obersteiner. Heft VI, Franz Deuticke, Leipzig und Wien, 1899.

Some years ago Prof. Obersteiner began the practice of issuing at irregular periods and in the form of separate volumes the work done in his laboratory in Vienna. Six volumes have now appeared, and each is a most creditable production. We miss in this latest the names of some of the contributors to earlier "Arbeiten," but the sixth volume is not inferior to those that have preceded it. Students of all nationalities owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. Obersteiner for the privilege of working in his laboratory, so generously offered, and his students scattered throughout civilized lands, as well as other persons, view with pleasure the progress manifested by the "Arbeiten."

The sixth volume is formed by six original papers, and is well illustrated. The first paper, by Spitzer, contains the description of a solitary tubercle in the floor of the fourth ventricle, and of the degeneration caused by this growth; and a long discussion on paralysis of associated ocular muscles (Blicklähmung). Special attention is paid to the posterior longitudinal bundle. In Spitzer's case, both fifth nerves were found degenerated, although they were not directly involved in the tumor; they were supposed to have been pressed by the tumor against the base of the cranium, or to have been injured by the distortion of the pons caused by the growth of the tumor. The possibility of symptoms produced by injury of structures at a distance from the seat of a new growth must always be borne in mind in localizing a tumor within the central nervous system. Degeneration observed by Spitzer in the upper part of Burdach's columns is explained in an ingenious way. Pressure by the tumor was believed to have been exerted on the first cervical roots, and to this pressure and the resistance offered by the ligamentum dentatum the degeneration of these roots was ascribed. Degenerated fibers found in the anterior columns of the cord and terminating in the anterior horns of the cervical region were believed to have had their origin in the interbrain or midbrain, in Deiters' nucleus, and in the nuclei of the posterior columns, possibly also in the cerebellum. Spitzer describes two tracts under the names of ventral and lateral tegmental bundles.

Zappert gives a lengthy description of the degeneration in the spinal cord of children, to which he has called attention in a previous paper. Degeneration of the intraspinal portion of the anterior roots, of the accessorius, and of the fibers issuing from Clarke's columns and passing to the direct cerebellar tracts, and of the motor bulbar roots, are not rare findings in children under two years of age. Alteration of the posterior roots and of the spinal white matter is more uncommon and less intense. The pronounced changes in the spinal cord, as seen by the Marchi method, were believed by Zappert to be pathological, and were found only after severe diseases of long duration. It seems that the anterior spinal roots of young children are especially vulnerable. In rare cases the motor cells in the anterior horns were also found altered. The changes in the anterior roots may have some relation to the convulsions of childhood, but the full significance of this degeneration is unknown.

We have from Neurath the report of the case of a child who had been normal until hemiplegia developed after scarlet fever. Numerous sclerotic areas were found in the brain. The glia was altered in these areas, and large cells with large nuclei and processes, resembling ganglion cells, were found within and without these sclerotic foci. These areas were not the result of the scarlet fever, as the time intervening between the attack of scarlet fever and death was far too short for their formation, and no vascular lesions were observed. The hemiplegia was supposed to have resulted from the action of the poisonous products of the scarlet fever on the nerve cells.

Kure's investigations on the trigeminus nerve of the rabbit show that the cells of the cerebral root of this nerve do not conform to the type of the motor cells of the cord, but resemble those of the Gasserian and spinal ganglia; they have, therefore, probably a different function from the cells of the motor nucleus of this nerve. The fibers of the cerebral root, and those arising in certain cells of the locus cœruleus and entering the portio minor, and fibers of the motor root, do not decussate.

Pineles reports a case of tubercle of the left cerebellar hemisphere, and one of glioma of the left cerebellar hemisphere. He enters into a long discussion concerning the functions of the cerebellum and refers to the work of a number of investigators. His paper is largely in the form of a critical digest.

A very interesting case of congenital defect of the brain is described by Zappert and Hitschmann. The child lived eleven days. The spinal cord was well formed, except that the pyramidal tracts were absent and some degeneration existed in the posterior columns. The anterior corpora quadrigemina, the cerebral peduncles, the basal ganglia and parts above these were entirely absent. The eyes were developed, but the optic nerves were atrophic. It is interesting to note that the cells of the anterior horns of the cord appeared to be normal by the carmine stain, and that the absence of the cerebral impulses transmitted by means of the pyramidal tracts was not sufficient to arrest the development of these cells. A peculiar degeneration of the posterior columns in the uppermost part of the cord could not be satisfactorily explained. It is certainly a noteworthy fact that a human being may live a certain time without a cerebrum—in this case, eleven days.

SPILLER.

A new journal devoted to psychiatry is just announced. It is entitled "Psychiatrische Wochenschrift," and is to be devoted to the reporting of mental diseases and general correspondence. Its editors are Alt, Anton, Guttstadt and Mendel; acting editor, v. Bresler; publisher, von Marhold, in Halle.

The new journal is to be a quarterly and its price 4 marks.